

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing a malfunction of a clutch of a motor vehicle with [[a]] an automatically shifting transmission, comprising the steps of:
  - a) by means of a first sensor, generating a first electrical signal, which indicates if the motor vehicle is standing still;
  - b) by means of a second sensor, generating a second electrical signal, which indicates if a gear in the automatically shifting transmission cannot be synchronized within a prescribed time interval;
  - c) by means of a third sensor, generating a third electrical signal, which indicates if ~~the~~ an engine of the motor vehicle is running; and
  - d) evaluating the first, second and third electrical signals in a logic AND-member which sets an error flag indicating a malfunction in ~~the~~ a clutch-actuator associated with the clutch if all three signals are affirmative.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmission is shifted into neutral when the error flag has been set.
3. (Currently Amended) The transmission method of claim 1, wherein the error flag is canceled if a selector lever of the transmission is actuated by a driver of the motor vehicle before a prescribed time limit has elapsed after the error flag has been set.
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically actuating a clutch with a clutch-actuator, the clutch being associated with an automatically shifting transmission of a motor vehicle, and wherein the apparatus is configured to diagnose a malfunction of the clutch and comprises:

- a) a first sensor for generating a first electrical signal that indicates if the motor vehicle is standing still;
- b) a second sensor for generating a second electrical signal that indicates if a gear in the automatically shifting transmission cannot be synchronized within a prescribed time;
- c) a third sensor for generating a third electrical signal that indicates if an engine of the vehicle is running; and
- d) a logic AND-member for evaluating the first, second and third electrical signals and setting an error flag indicating a malfunction in the clutch-actuator if all three signals are affirmative, wherein the apparatus is adapted to perform the method of claim 1.

5. (Canceled)